

**Remarks**

Claims 1-15, 24-27, 30 and 31 are pending. With this Response claims 24-27, 30, and 31 are canceled. Upon entry of the current amendments, claims 1-15 remain pending for appeal.

**Cancellation of claims 24-27, 30, and 31 Should Be Entered After Final**

A proper reply after final rejection includes canceling claims so as to present the case in better form for appeal. See, e.g., 37 C.F.R. §§1.113 and 1.116, and MPEP 714.13.

With this reply, independent claim 24 and all claims depending therefrom (i.e., claims 25-27, 30, and 31) are canceled. As mentioned above, a Notice of Appeal is being concurrently filed herewith. After the cancellation of claims 24-27, 30, and 31, has been entered, only claims 1-15 remain pending for appeal.

Accordingly, the cancellation of claims 24-27, 30, and 31 removes one or more issues for appeal and, therefore, presents the case in better form for appeal.

It is respectfully requested that the cancellation of claims 24-27, 30, and 31, be entered.

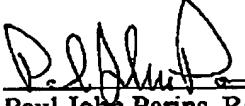
**Conclusion**

In view of these amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in better form for appeal.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, at the Examiner's convenience, should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication or the present patent application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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